

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1861.

Announcements for THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE must be forwarded to me.

To Correspondents.
No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. No notice is intended for insertion unless so authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessary for publication, but as a security for his good faith.

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NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

The House has made various amendments to the Senate Enrollment bill, principally those proposed by the Committee on Military Affairs. Of course the amendments will have to be sent to the Senate for its action, including the one retaining the present compensation—\$100; the Senate having proposed to make it \$100. Both Houses, however, are agreed on consolidating the two classes and exempting from the draft only the Vice-President, members of the Cabinet, the United States Judges, and those who may be declared by the proper officers physically or mentally incapable of bearing arms.

Official documents show that during the year 1860, 13,500 claims of deceased and discharged soldiers were settled at the Treasury Department. The number settled during 1860 was 45,500, and there remained on hand until the 1st of January last, 74,000. In the middle of next August, all claims now in the Second Auditor's office, when the necessary evidence can be obtained, will be settled. But as a bill has passed the House giving increased facilities, which will doubtless soon be concurred in by the Senate, the causes of delay will in a great measure be removed.

The noted guerrilla Lieut. John F. Rollin was captured a few days ago on Holcomb Island, seven of whom were killed, and eight wounded. He is the man who perpetrated the Round Pond massacre, near Cape Girardeau, last summer, when sixteen men were murdered in cold blood.

Gen. Foster telegraphs from Knoxville, under date of Feb. 7, that an expedition sent against Thomas and his band of Indians and whites at Quintonville, has returned completely successful. They surprised the town, killed and wounded 25, took 50 prisoners, and dispersed the remainder of the gang. Our loss was 2 killed and 6 wounded.

Everything is quiet in the Army of the Potomac since the return of our forces to their old position. The Rebels have thrown up new rifle-pits and breastworks to cover Morton's Ford.

Gen. Meade held a reception in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, yesterday. The freedom of the city was tendered to him by the Mayor.

Richmond papers confirm the report of the Federal retreat from Newbern. Their army had fallen back 6 miles.

CONGRESS.

SENATE, Feb. 9.—Mr. Sumner presented petitions of 15,000 women of New-York; 13,300 of Illinois, and 11,600 of Massachusetts, and an equal number of men, praying for the entire abolition of slavery. The introduction of the petition caused a debate between Messrs. Seward, Sumner, Wilson, Powell, Johnson and Converse. In the course of which the action of the Senate on the Crittenden compromise was discussed at length. The Lieutenant-General bill was referred back with the clause making such officer General-in-Chief, and the name of Gen. Grant struck out. Mr. Sherman introduced a bill which was referred to the Finance Committee, prohibiting speculations in gold, silver and foreign exchange, and for other purposes. Mr. Powell introduced a bill amending the Constitution, so as to provide a new method of electing the President of the United States. (It is a characteristic bill, proposing in effect to toss copper or pull straws for President and Vice-President.) A bill to make additional Judicial Districts in New-York was referred. (Makes three Districts in all the State.) The Senate took up the bill to promote enlistments. After a short discussion the subject was laid aside, and the Senate adjourned.

HOBKINS.—A bill was introduced granting lands to aid the Lake Superior Railroad. After a considerable discussion the House, by 87 against 14, adopted the resolution reported from the Committee of Election that Mr. Treadwell is entitled to a seat as a representative from Louisville. The House then went into Committee on the Enrollment bill. A motion to exempt clergymen not engaged in secular business was lost. A motion to exempt from draft all who had rather negotiate than fight was lost, 23 to 162. The Committee refused, 45 to 60, to strike out the clause consolidating the two clauses. Without finishing the bill the House adjourned.

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ASSEMBLY.—The privileges of the floor were extended to Maj. Gen. Hancock. He was welcomed by the Speaker. The session was mainly spent in Committee of the Whole. No important bills were noted upon. RECESS. At the Evening Session a resolution was adopted to print 4,000 extra copies of Gen. Dix's letter relative to the condition of the Park Barracks and the soldiers on Riker's Island. The Governor's Message was read. Mr. Pitts of Orleans spoke at length in criticism of that document. Adjourned.

GENERAL NEWS.

New-Orleans dates to the 2d inst., are received. Gen. Sherman's expedition is now so far advanced that the Western papers seem to think no harm will come from publishing pretty full details of its composition, and even hints as to its destination. A heavy cavalry force is already sweeping through Central Mississippi. Infantry from various points have gathered in great numbers at Vicksburg, the army corps which forms its nucleus having been reinforced by the garrisons of all posts along the river, the holding of which is not a military necessity. Under command of Gen. McPherson they are moving eastward upon Jackson. A third column of considerable strength is marching from Natchez. The three are expected to unite at some point not yet indicated, under Gen. Sherman's command, and together to enter upon a campaign in the heart of the enemy's country.

The advance of this formidable force may furnish a clue to the sudden retreat of Johnston from Dalton. He held a position near that place, of great strength to resist an attack in front, but it seems to be the characteristic of the campaign through this vast territory that no position is defensible against a movement in flank. If Gen. Sherman starts his columns from Vicksburg, five hundred miles marching due East, Johnston is instantly sensible that they

are to be touched on, but there is a demand by speculators for a greater

Gold upon the street was strong at 150½ in the morning, and did not vary essentially during the day from 150½ to 151. Stocks early in the day were active and firm. Few sales were made to realize profits, but for every seller there was a new and confident buyer. At the Stock Exchange Governments were strong. The Stock market closed regular, but the tendency, under an increasing supply of money, is upward. The sales to realize profits are kept up with greater

The Board of Supervisors yesterday appropriated two million dollars more for the purpose of paying bounties to volunteers, to enable the county to fill her quota without recourse to a draft.

At the meeting of the Aldermen yesterday the Controller was directed to sell at auction certain ferry leases and other city property.

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There are other points to be touched on, but there is a demand by speculators for a greater

advance sufficient to keep the daily movement steady upward. At the Second Board the market was lower upon the general list. There was a disposition shown to put out more options, which were readily taken. Money is abundant at 7½ cent, with a good many balances left at less with favorite houses. Among stock houses the rate is 7½ cent with more offering than can be used.

MR. SUMNER'S WAY.

Hon. Charles Sumner on Monday submitted to the Senate a series of propositions regarding the powers and duties of the National Government as affected by and related to the Slaveholders' Rebellion, which, whether he assented to their leading propositions or not, every thoughtful reader must pronounce in scope and dictation worthy of the subject. We will not be committed to Mr. Sumner's or any other dogmas on this subject; we, as a rule, dislike the blending in one proposition of what is to be done with the reasons for doing it (after the manner of what Col. Benton termed Mr. Douglass' "stump speech in the belly" of his Nebraska bill); yet we think every champion of Slavery, Nullification, Secession, "No Coercion," the Resolutions of '90, "the Union as it was," &c., &c., will agree with us that Mr. Sumner meets them fairly and frankly, on grounds of clearly enunciated principle, and compels them to recognize him as an earnest, manful, fearless antagonist—a "fellow worthy of their steel." Neither implicitly accepting nor by any means rejecting them, we yet thank their author for having so periphrastically and forcibly set forth that view of our political system which its upholders commend as "National" and its foes designate as "consolidation."

A NEW PLAN FOR IRON-CLADS.

In all the iron-clad vessels that have yet been tried there are two practical difficulties for which, as yet, there has been found no remedy. The broadside ships of this country and of Europe, covered with four and a half inches of iron so heavily that they cannot be relied on as seaworthy, or if seaworthy must be insufficient in their armaments. To meet these difficulties the minds of inventors are everywhere at work, and anything that promises success should meet with encouragement. Among the latest methods is that of Mr. Montgomery, the inventor of the corrugated steam-boiler, who proposes to apply that form of iron as ship-armour. He claims that his method secures both buoyancy and strength to the ship, and admits, therefore, of putting on board a sufficient armament, as it does away with a large weight of superfluous iron. In a vessel of 1,800 tons burden there is, according to his plan, a saving of 400 tons of metal, and 18 inches draft of water; in a vessel of 7,500 tons burden, a saving of 1,600 tons and 39 inches draft. This plan, we understand, has been presented to the Secretary of the Navy, who submitted it to a Board of Examiners, composed of Rear-Admiral Davis, Prof. Baché, Superintendent of the Coast Survey, Gen. Barnard, Lieutenant-Colonel of Engineers, and Prof. Henry of the Smithsonian Institution. The opinion of these eminent scientific men is certainly worthy of great respect. They report:

CITY RAILROADS.

We ask the Legislature, in considering the numerous applications for city railroad charters, to keep one principle in mind—that the streets of New-York are public highways, intended for the use and convenience of all the people. The single question to be answered with reference to each charter petitioned for is whether the interest of the public, on the whole, demands that rail shall be laid through the streets embraced in the bill. If it does, grant the charter; if it does not, refuse it, though the petition be backed by influential names, and though the passage of the bill be supported by a unanimous lobby. It is not the lobby, it is the members of the Senate and Assembly, who are responsible finally to the people for the use or abuse of their delegated powers.

CITY RAILROADS.

We profoundly appreciate and admire Mr. Sumner's intense and single-eyed devotion to the cause of Universal Freedom. His future biographer will justly claim for him the honor of having, through a public career neither brief nor undistinguished, kept steadily, absorbingly, exclusively in view the deliverance of his country from the curse of Slavery and the domination of the Slave Power. Others have loved Liberty as truly as he; none other in the higher walks of public life has known no passion, no purpose, but that of freeing the enslaved. No use of ambition, no blandishments of society, no tempting savor of jobbery, has ever swayed him one hair from what—he has, at least—is the path of sovereign duty.

But this very directness and invincible singleness of purpose may impel to practical mistakes. We think it has done so in his case. Mr. Sumner errs, not in hating Slavery too much or too exclusively, but in evincing that hate through too many distinct propositions. This is a waste of power—a waste of precious strength. Mr. Sumner, for example, on the very day on which he introduced seven resolves striking defianceately and radically at the bases of American Slavery, presents memorials praying that the Right of Suffrage may be extended to persons of African lineage, and introduces a bill to repeat the Fugitive Slave Law, and another to enable Blacks to testify in Federal Courts the same as Whites.

Now, we approve every one of the objects here aimed at. We ask no other civil rights for ourselves and our race than we are ready and anxious to concede to every portion of the human family. We hope to see the day when all men shall vote who are not disqualified by idiocy, insanity, ignorance, or crime—when no human being will be hunted in this land of liberty as a fugitive from Slavery—and when every one's testimony will be taken when offered, and the jury instructed to weigh it and take it for whatever it may be worth. We have known Whites whose oath was not worth a potato, and Blacks whose word was good for a thousand dollars—their color in either case having no influence on their credibility. Twelve upright, intelligent men in a jury-box may safely be trusted with any testimony that parties litigant may offer.

But Mr. Sumner grievously errs in thus pecking at the twigs and leaves of the Upas, which he is at the same time trying to uproot. He incurs the danger of repelling and alienating good men by bringing forward so many separate measures relating to Slavery. The Irish witness, who undertook to give fourteen reasons for his father's disobedience to the summons of the Court, having begun—

FREE SPEECH IN NEW-YORK.

If Tory editors and correspondents of British aristocratic journals speak truth, then all Liberty has been annihilated in the unhappy States that still adhere to our Federal Union—every one is arbitrarily arrested who whispers dissent or demur to whatever may be done or decreed by the Executive—the prisons are choked with innocent people who can't guess and are never told for what they are incarcerated—while no one dares print a paragraph that is not laudatory of our present rulers, or at least nothing calculated to displease them.

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BANKS.

A Committee of financial men from New-York have submitted to Secretary Chase a plan for harmonizing the differences between the old New-York banks and the new National banks. It is understood that a number of the old banks are desirous of reorganizing as National banks.

REVERDY JOHNSON ON ABOLISHING SLAVERY.

It is said that Reverdy Johnson will soon make a speech in favor of the amendment to the Constitution abolishing Slavery.

THE LOUISIANA ELECTION CASE.

The House to-day, by a vote of 87 to 14, decided in favor of the report of the Committee of Elections, and against Mr. Field's right to a seat in the House as Representative from Louisiana.

RECESSIONS BY DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

Receptions were held last night by Senator Tazetta, the Spanish Minister; Assistant Secretary Fields, Admiral Shubrick, and Judge Wyke. At each of them a large number of distinguished persons were present. That of the Spanish Minister was an elegant affair, members of the Foreign Legations, Secretary Seward, and a number of Spanish naval officers being in attendance.

ANOTHER PEACE HUMBUG BY FERNANDO WOOD.

Another peace proposition by Fernando Wood, introduced in the course of the debate on the Enrollment bill, received its quota by a vote of 32 to 103. Mr. Cox of Ohio and a number of the opposition voted against it.

LAND SURVEYS IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Returns dated Dec. 24, 1860, have been received from the Surveyor-General of Washington Territory at Olympia, showing the survey of township 12 north ranges 39, 40, 41, 42 and township 11 north ranges 39, 40, 41, 42, and township 10 north, of range 39 and 40 east of the Willamette Meridian.

DEATH OF A PRIEST.

The Rev. Jos. Aschimann, for many years pastor of Trinity Church, Georgetown, and afterwards Professor of Theology, Philosophy, Scripture, and Hebrew. The people do not weep, and will not tolerate revolution at their hands. They mean to hold and enjoy their civil rights as free men, and their political rights as citizens, under the safeguard of their several State Constitutions, as our fathers intended. They mean, as our fathers intended, to maintain the sovereignty of the States against the secret and insidious, as well as the open and bold, and audacious encroachments of the central Government.

They hold that the Federal Government is not the agent of the several States, but the several States are agents of the Federal Government, so far as to exercise, not exercise, no power in this country,

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IMPROVEMENT OF CHICAGO HARBOR.

Mr. Arnold of Illinois introduced a bill for investigation of the improvement of Chicago Harbor, to be paid by tonnage duties. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

LAND SURVEYS IN OREGON.

Returns approved as late as Dec. 31, 1860, have been received from the Oregon Surveyor-General at Oregon City, showing the surveys in township 2 south of range 3 west, and township 7 south, range 5 west, Willamette Meridian, the greater portion of such townships being covered by annual settlement under the old donation law, making grants to settlers in Oregon.

OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE CONNECTICUT TROOPS.

Gov. Buckingham and staff of Connecticut arrived here this evening. They propose visiting the Connecticut troops in the Army of the Potomac and its vicinity.

THE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION.

The President's reception to-night was the most crowded of any held at the White House this season. Major-Gens. Doubleday, Pleasonton, Brig.-Gen. Harney, Judges Davis and Field of the Supreme Court, Secretary Welles, Col. Clitz, commanding West Point, Gen. Hallock and staff, Secretary Stanton, Mons. De Lissois, Minister from South America, and numerous representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and the Senate, House, Bench, and Army, were present.

LIBUT. MAURY'S CLAIM FOR DAMAGES.

We learn that a report is in preparation upon the claims of Lieut. Maury for compensation for alleged damages, in which it is stated that he has already drawn from Government more money than was justly his due. His bondsmen being in the Southern Confederacy, it is impossible to proceed against them.

TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1864.

COMMITTEE ON A NEW RULE.

The Speaker of the House has appointed as

the Select Committee on Mr. Pendleton's bill authorizing Cabinet Ministers to occupy seats on the floor of the House, Messrs. Morrill of Ohio, Stevens of Pennsylvania, Merrill of Vermont, Mallory of Kentucky, Cass of Iowa, Ganson of New-York, and Blaine of Maine.

THE SOLDIERS INJURED AT THE LONG BRIDGE.

The soldiers who were injured at the Long Bridge last Saturday are as comfortable as could be expected.

No amputations as yet have been made, though it is

believed that it will be necessary in two or three cases.

Two more of them have been removed to Armory Square Hospital, where they all receive the most attention.

BOUNTY FOR ENLISTMENTS FROM THE DISTRICT.

Both branches of the City Councils last evening passed a bill providing for the payment of a bounty of \$100 to all men who enlist in the service and are credited to this city.

DISTINGUISHED EVENING PARTIES.

There have been a greater number of large, brilliant, and distinguished evening parties during the present season than in any former one during the last three years. Last night there were four or five, including those of the Spanish Minister and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Field.